



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2003 Wisconsin Act 240 [2003 Assembly Bill 519]	Baiting and Feeding of Deer
2003 Acts: www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/	Act Memos: www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/act_memo/act_memo.htm

2003 Wisconsin Act 240 relates to the feeding of deer for viewing or hunting purposes. The feeding of deer for hunting purposes is also referred to as baiting. As used in the Act, “feeding deer” means to “place any material to feed or attract deer in or from the wild.” The regulation of the feeding of deer is part of the state’s strategy for dealing with chronic wasting disease in deer in Wisconsin.

Counties in Which Feeding is Banned

The Act requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to adopt rules that prohibit feeding deer for hunting or viewing purposes in a county which meets any of the following conditions:

- The county or a portion of the county is in a chronic wasting disease control zone designated by DNR rule.
- A positive test for chronic wasting disease or bovine tuberculosis has been confirmed in any captive or free-roaming domestic or wild animal in that county after December 31, 1997.
- The county or a portion of the county is within a 10-mile radius of the known location of a captive or free-roaming domestic or wild animal that has been tested and confirmed positive for chronic wasting disease or bovine tuberculosis after December 31, 1997.

Restrictions on Feeding in Other Counties

The Act authorizes any person to feed deer *for viewing purposes* in counties other than the counties in which the DNR prohibits feeding deer, subject to all of the following conditions:

- The feeding site must be within 50 yards of an owner-occupied residence or a person’s business, if the business is generally open to the public.

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents.

- The feeding site may not be less than 100 yards from the traveled portion of a highway that has a posted speed limit of 45 miles per hour or more.
- No more than two gallons of material may be present at the feeding site at any time.
- The material used to feed deer does not contain any animal part or animal byproduct.

The Act also repeals the current July 1, 2004 sunset of DNR authority to regulate the feeding of wild animals for purposes other than hunting.

The Act authorizes any person to feed deer *for hunting purposes* in counties other than the counties in which the DNR prohibits feeding deer, subject to all of the following conditions:

- No more than two gallons of material may be present at a feeding site at any time.
- No feeding site may be closer than 100 yards of another feeding site.
- The person does not place more than two gallons of feed in an area of 40 acres or less.
- The material used to feed deer does not contain any animal part or animal byproduct.

Additional Information

The DNR's website on chronic wasting disease is at:

- <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/Whealth/issues/Cwd/>

Effective Date: The Act takes effect on April 28, 2004.

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